

Recycling & Refuse Collection

For information about changes to County-provided recycling and trash collection, call 240-777-6410, or visit www.montgomerycountymd.gov/solidwaste.

Potholes

Work crews have thousands of miles of pavement to patrol, so they appreciate helpful calls from residents giving the exact location of the pothole, with a specific address or intersection. Crews will repair potholes on County-maintained roads promptly. Just call 240-777-6000 or online at: www.montgomerycountymd.gov, then click on the Department of Transportation, and under Seasonal Information, Pothole Repair.

Phone Numbers & Websites

Montgomery County's Website:
www.montgomerycountymd.gov/snow

RIDE ON 240-777-RIDE (7433)
www.rideonbus.com

Route changes are updated regularly and announced on the Transit Information phone line and on County Cable Channel 6. Or check Ride On's web site for detour information.

COMMUTER SERVICES 240-773-BWTW (2989)
You can obtain information on alternative transportation, including carpool, vanpool, transit options, transit passes and tokens.

METRO 202-637-7000
www.wmata.com

For general information about Metro schedules and routes, and their status during storms, call between 6:00 a.m. and 10:30 p.m. on weekdays, and from 8:00 A.M. to 10:30 P.M. on weekends, or visit their web site.

**MONTGOMERY COUNTY
PUBLIC SCHOOLS** 301-279-3673

You may check to see if schools are closed or school schedules are changed because of bad weather. However, the news is relayed over local radio and television stations immediately after the decision is made. You may also visit the County web site at www.montgomerycountymd.gov and click on "Winter Storm Information & Updates".

**COMMUNITY USE OF
PUBLIC FACILITIES** 240-777-2706
www.montgomerycountymd.gov/cupf

Community activities scheduled in schools or other County facilities are automatically canceled when public schools close early or for the entire day because of snow. Weekend or holiday cancellations are announced on local television and radio stations as soon as the decision is made. You can also get information on snow closings by calling, or by checking their website.

PUBLIC LIBRARIES 240-777-6500
If you wonder if the library is open, call. After the message announcing openings/closings in Montgomery County; press 1 for changes in scheduled programs and activities and then press 1 again for an up-to-date status, including closing times of branches, conditions of parking lots and how library fines will be handled.

MONTGOMERY COLLEGE
www.montgomerycollege.org
If classes are suspended because of snow, you will hear announcements on local radio and television stations. Please don't call the College to ask about school closings. If you don't hear anything on the radio or TV, assume the College is open.

Phone Directory

Division of Highway Services 240-777-6000
Ride On 240-777-RIDE (7433)
Commuter Services 240-773-BWTW (2989)
Metro 202-637-7000
Recycling & Refuse Collection 240-777-6410
Libraries 240-777-6500
**Community Use of Public
Facilities** 240-777-2706
Public Schools 301-279-3673

Public Information

County Cable Montgomery, Channel 6, continuously updates roadway conditions within the County.

For information about snow removal operations during a snowstorm, call the Division of Highway Services at 240-777-6000, or check the county's website at www.montgomerycountymd.gov/snow.



Montgomery County, Maryland
Department of Transportation
DIVISION OF HIGHWAY SERVICES

When It Snows ...



Isiah Leggett
County Executive

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When It Snows

When it snows, snow fighters concentrate on keeping the major County roads and primary neighborhood streets passable. These roads are cleared down to bare pavement as soon as possible after the storm is over.

Plowing generally begins when snow becomes 3 or more inches deep and the temperature indicates that there will be no melting. Even after plowing, snow that has been hard packed by traffic often remains on the street, where the County plows are unable to remove it completely. In this situation, a mixture of sand and salt is spread to provide adequate traction.

After the snow stops falling and after the major County roads and primary neighborhood streets are cleared, crews concentrate on clearing snow from all neighborhood streets and sanding as promptly as possible.

What You Can Expect When It Snows

- It takes about 16 hours following the end of a 3" snowfall to plow and/or treat every County road once.
- After a 10" snowfall, you can expect **major and primary County** roads to be cleared within 24 to 36 hours. At that time, one pass should have been made through neighborhood streets.
- After a 15" snowfall, our crews will complete this work in about 36 to 48 hours.
- After a 24" snowfall, our crews will complete the work in about 48 to 60 hours.
- However, the type of snow (wet or powdery) and the temperature and wind conditions following the storm can alter this schedule.

Please be patient! Streets are plowed according to their priority and reviewed at the end of each season. Snow fighters work around the clock until **all 4,726 miles of County-maintained streets** are passable. We will use a force of 200 employees, 180 contract personnel with 175 pieces of snow removal equipment, and we have available 35,500 tons of salt and sand to get the job done depending upon the severity of the storm.

County's Action Plan



1. Patrol at the start of the storm
2. Spot salt bridges and elevated roadways
3. Full-scale salt of all major County roads (arterial roads connecting subdivisions or business districts) and primary neighborhood streets (main collector streets through subdivisions)
4. Plow all major County roads
5. Plow all primary neighborhood streets and all other residential streets
6. Spot sand hills and intersections on residential streets

This plan's goal is to ensure that major and primary neighborhood routes are cleared to bare pavement as soon as possible. Secondary neighborhood streets cannot receive the same level of treatment, but will always be plowed and also spot sanded where necessary. Residents will be within 3 or 4 blocks of a fully treated roadway during the course of a storm, and will have complete vehicular access as soon as possible when the storm is over.

Snow Emergency Routes

Both the State of Maryland and Montgomery County have designated certain roads as SNOW EMERGENCY ROUTES, prominently marked with red and white signs. When the State and/or the County initiates the snow emergency plan, it is illegal to drive without snow tires, mud/snow radials or chains, or to park on these roads. Vehicles without snow tires or chains found blocking snow routes during an emergency may be ticketed and towed at the owner's expense. **State and County snow emergency plans may not be put into effect simultaneously**, so pay special attention to news broadcasts when announcements are made. State-maintained highways can be identified because they have posted route numbers.

Do's & Don'ts

- **If you have a driveway, use it.**
- **If you do not have a driveway, park as close to the curb as you can.** Park your car on the EVEN NUMBERED side of the street if possible. Move to the other side of the street after the plow has cleared it.
- To help avoid the frustration that occurs when a snowplow covers your driveway with snow after you have shoveled, stand facing the street and shovel snow to the right into the yard instead of into the street.

- Leave your car at home! Ride the subway or catch a bus. Every car left at home reduces the number of stranded vehicles that slow down snow control operations.
- If you must drive, equip your vehicle with snow tires or chains. Why risk getting stuck, damaging your car, blocking traffic and snow removal equipment or incurring towing and impoundment costs and inconvenience?
- A road that has been sanded is safer than one not sanded. Please do not pull out in front of trucks to get up a hill faster!
- **Cul-de-sacs:** One misplaced vehicle in a cul-de-sac may prevent it from being plowed.

Plowing & How You Can Help

Clearing driveways and entrances is the responsibility of the property owner. Commercial and multi-family property owners are responsible for clearing sidewalks at their properties.

Clearing Sidewalks

County law requires all residential and commercial property owners to clear their public sidewalks within 24 hours of the end of a snowstorm. All residents are strongly encouraged to be good neighbors by clearing the sidewalks in front of their homes, as well as assisting those who may not be physically able to do so.

Who Else Clears Snow?

All numbered (State-maintained) roads in the county are cleared by the Maryland State Highway Administration.

Other departments, outside agencies and governmental jurisdictions have responsibility for plowing. They include: DOT'S Transit Services Division (which will clear as many of its **5,000 highest ridership** shelters and bus stops as it can), the Montgomery County Board of Education, the Maryland-National Capital Park & Planning Commission, Metro, municipalities and homeowner's associations. Commercial parking lot owners plow their property and may not move snow into the street.

Emergencies

Call the Police and Fire Departments at 911 only in life-threatening emergencies or for emergency Fire and Rescue services. The Police and Fire Departments will contact the Division of Highway Services if an emergency vehicle needs assistance to maneuver on a snow or ice-covered street.